

T-276
Rachel Smith House
St. Michaels
private

c. 1870

The Rachel Smith house stands out as one of the most distinctive dwellings on East Chestnut Street. The two-story, three-bay house follows a different architectural form than the other houses on the street. Unlike any other nearby house, a two-story porch stretches across the full front of the dwelling, and the two halves of the house have differing depths. The right half, or the west side is two rooms deep while the left half, or east end is only one room deep. Also unusual is the partially enclosed front porch.

Exterior architectural features and the chain-of-title for this lot suggest that the house was erected during the ownership of Rachel Smith, who purchased the property in 1853 from Nathan and Sarah Harrington and James and Elizabeth Benson. Rachel Smith lived on the lot until her death in 1878 when she bequeathed to her neice, Rachel J. Harrington, the "...house and lot on Chestnut Street whereon I now dwell." The property remained in Rachel Harrington's name until 1888, when it was transferred to Ellen J. Sheckles, and then in the same year to William H. Seymour. The Seymours held title to the Chestnut Street lot until 1932.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-276

Magi No. 2102762504

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic RACHEL SMITH HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 208 East Chestnut Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James and Martha Slay

street & number 208 East Chestnut Street telephone no.:

city, town St. Michaels state and zip code MD 21663

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 505

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 507

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1969 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. T-276

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Rachel Smith house stands at 208 East Chestnut Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house faces north with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Probably built during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, this two-story, three-bay frame dwelling is supported by a minimal masonry foundation and is sheathed with weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Stretching across the full front of the house is a two-story porch. Unusual to this structure are the different depths of the east and west halves of the house. The west side appears two rooms deep while the east end is only one room deep. In addition the east bay of the porch is walled in and suggests the left half of the house may have served some sort of commercial use, perhaps an office or store.

The north (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance framed by sidelights and a transom. To the right (west) is a two-over-two sash window framed by louvered shutters, while the left (east) bay is walled in and marked by a multi-pane bay window. A square balusters railing stretches between the square porch posts, and decorative sawn brackets and spindle work trim the eave. The second floor, three-bay facade is marked by a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows, also hung with louvered shutters. The square second floor posts have sawn eave brackets and a sawn baluster handrail stretches between the posts.

The side elevations of the house are largely plain weatherboard walls aside from small four-over-two attic windows that flank the interior end brick chimneys. The eaves on each end of the house are slightly extended.

Access to the south (rear) elevation and interior of this unusual house was not possible at the time of survey.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-276

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Rachel Smith house stands out as one of the most distinctive dwellings on East Chestnut Street. The two-story three-bay house follows a different architectural form than the other houses on the street. Unlike any other nearby houses, a two-story porch stretches across the full front of the dwelling, and the two halves of the house have different depths. The right half, or west side is two rooms deep while the left half, or east end is only one room deep. Also unusual is the partially enclosed front porch.

Exterior architectural features and the chain-of-title for this lot suggest that the house was erected during the ownership of Rachel Smith, who purchased the property in 1853 from Nathan and Sarah Harrington and James and Elizabeth Benson. (65/297) Rachel Smith lived on the lot until her death in 1878 when she bequeathed to her neice, Rachel J. Harrington, *the* "...house and lot on Chestnut Street whereon I now dwell." (12/134) The property remained in Rachel Harrington's name until 1888, when it was transferred to Ellen J. Sheckles, and then in the same year to William H. Seymour (see 107/428 and 108/296) The Seymours held title to the Chestnut Street lot until 1932. (230/46)

208 EAST CHESTNUT STREET

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T-636

YEAR: 1976 VOL: 505 PAGE: 507

FROM: H. M. C. Luykx PRICE:

TO: James M. Slay and Martha F. Slay

NOTES Begins NE corner of this lot; run S with former Robert D. Lambdin 120 feet to former Dr. Miller land; with Miller and an alley 30 feet to the former John Wales; with Wales N 120 feet to Chestnut Street; 30 feet on street to the beginning. Described as 208 East Chestnut Street.

Conveyed to Luykx by Warwick 1967, 423/259.

YEAR: 1967 VOL: 423 PAGE: 259

FROM: Gerard T. Warwick, Sr. and Ruth M. Warwick PRICE: \$15,550

TO: H. M. C. Luykx and Barbara M. Luykx

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Warwick by Donald 1966, 408/115.

YEAR: 1966 VOL: 408 PAGE: 115

FROM: Ruth O. Donald and William Davis Donald PRICE: \$10,500

TO: Gerard T. Warwick, Sr. and Ruth M. Warwick

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Donald by Gillis 1960, 360/571.

YEAR: 1960 VOL: 360 PAGE: 571

FROM: Lee S. Gillis and Florence Marie Gillis PRICE:

TO: Ruth O. Donald and William Davis Donald

NOTES There are two parcels of which this is Parcel 2. with the same description Part of a title clearance for the purpose of including William Davis Donald on the deed.

Conveyed to Gillis by Donald 1960, 360/569.

Conveyed to William T. Wharton and Ruth O. Wharton by Lee Gillis 1958, 344/389

Conveyed to Lee Gillis by William T. Wharton and Ruth O. Wharton 1958, 344/387

Conveyed to William T. Wharton and Irene E. Wharton by William N. Seymour 1932, 230/46. Irene Wharton died and William T. Wharton married Ruth O.

YEAR: 1932 VOL: 230 PAGE: 46

FROM: William N. Seymour and others* PRICE: \$900

TO: William T. Wharton

NOTES * The "others" were 8 Seymours, 6 Whartons, and 2 Russells. These were the heirs of Samuel Harper Seymour. Same description.

Conveyed to William H. Seymour by Ellen Sheckles 1888, 108/296.

William H. Seymour devised the property to his son Samuel Harper Seymour by his will, 1926, 21/429.

YEAR: 1888 VOL: 108 PAGE: 296

FROM: Ellen J. Sheckles and husband PRICE: \$350

TO: William H. Seymour

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Sheckles by Rachel J. Harrington 1888, 107/428.

The deed further relates that Rachel J. Harrington took the property under the will of Rachel Smith (1871, prob. 1878). Rachel Smith purchased the land from Harrington and Benson 1853, 65/296.

YEAR: 1888 VOL: 107 PAGE: 428

FROM: Rachel J. Harrington PRICE:

TO: Ellen J. Sheckles (Baltimore City)

NOTES The consideration was the agreement by Sheckles to provide for the upkeep of Rachel Harrington for the rest of her natural life, paying her funeral expenses and the bills of Dr. John C. Gibson. Begins at the NE corner of this lot and runs South 120 feet with the lot of Robert D. Lambdin to the land of Dr. John Miller; West 30 feet with Miller to John H. Wales; with Wales 120 feet to Chestnut Street; then 30 feet to the beginning.

Same lot Rachel Harrington obtained from the will of Rachel J. Smith.

YEAR: 1878 VOL: 12 PAGE: 134 WILL

FROM: WILL OF RACHEL SMITH PRICE:

TO:

NOTES Gives to her beloved niece Rachel J. Harrington my house and lot on Chestnut Street wherean I now dwell. Written 1871, probate March 1878

YEAR: 1853 VOL: 65 PAGE: 297

FROM: Nathan & Sarah Harrington and James & Elizabeth Benson PRICE: \$350

TO: Rachel Smith

NOTES Bbegins at the NE corner of a lot occupied by Joseph Sewell; runs East with Chestnut Street 30 feet to a lot of Daniel Cox; with Cox South to Dr. Miller's land 120 feet; with Miller West 30 feet to Sewell; then 120 feet to the beginning.

YEAR: 1848 VOL: 61 PAGE: 451

FROM: Heirs of John Dorgan PRICE: \$1450

TO: Nathan Harrington and James Benson

NOTES Part of "The Beach", "Bentley Hay", "Janes Progress", and "Matthew Circumvented" contiguous to St. Michaels. The first course of the deed included the lots on the South side of East Chestnut Street. 50 acres.

YEAR: 1813 VOL: 36 PAGE: 288

FROM: Elizabeth Sherwood PRICE: \$487.902/3

TO: John Dorgan

NOTES The deed was made in accordance with a decree of the Chancery Court, Dec. Term, 1812 (1812, 36/291), Dorgan vs the heirs of Hugh Sherwood. Apparently, a deal had been made between Thomas Sherwood, father of Hugh, and John Dorgan to sell Dorgan all of the land Thomas Sherwood had purchased from John Thompson in 1791 and from William Harrison in 1785. This amounted to all of Braddock's unsold land - parts of "Bentley Hay", "Janes Progress", "The Beach", "Chance", and "Matthew Circumvented". Both Thomas and Hugh Sherwood died and the widow Elizabeth was forced to honor the commitment.

YEAR: 1785 VOL: 23 PAGE: 115

FROM: William Harrison PRICE: p275cm

TO: Thomas Sherwood

NOTES "All the following pieces and parcels of land, to wit: Part of a tract of land called "Bentley Hay"; Part of a tract of land called "Janes Progress"; and part of a tract of land called "Beach". All of the aforesaid pieces of land to extend as far as a street distinguished on the plat of St. Michaels as Chestnut Street.

YEAR: 1786 VOL: 23 PAGE: 116

FROM: James Wignal PRICE: p275sp

TO: William Harrison

NOTES Deed runs through the chain of title of part of "Bentley Hay", "Janes Progress", and "Beach". Begins with sale of Philip Wetheral's property to James Braddock; Braddock was in arrears with Gildart & Gawith; Braddock had willed his property to John Thompson; John Thompson has conveyed to Wignal as representative of Gildart & Gawith; now Wignal conveys to William Harrison.

YEAR: 1778 VOL: 21 PAGE: 66

FROM: Thomas Kemp and Robert Richardson PRICE: p1550cm

TO: James Braddock

NOTES The real estate of Philip Wetheral. Total 127 acres of which Braddock used about 20 for his original plan of the town. Braddock's plat (which has been lost) apparently included a row of lots - unnumbered - on the South side of Chestnut Street which were not sold before his death. The survey of 1804-06 fixed the boundary of the town at 120 feet South of Chestnut Street, providing for a series of lots 60 by 120 feet numbered 59 to 74. The original lot numbers were not used in the case of this lot, but it was probably part of lot number 63. It is located on the boundary between "The Beach" and "Janes Progress".

208 E. Chestnut Street, St. Michaels

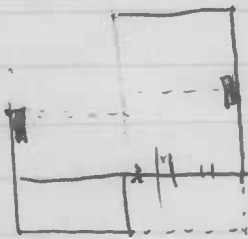
This house is composed of two parts, 2 bays long each, the east end appears to be 1 room deep and the west end, 2 rooms deep. Thus the west end has a taller roof and ~~a~~ two dormers in the roof. A brick chimney is located at the apex of ~~the~~ ~~the~~ the roof of both outside gables. Like many of the houses in St. Michaels, this house has a two-story gallery (1st story of east side enclosed in modern trim).

Reason for including this house in survey is because of interesting composition reminiscent of an earlier style and because of its ~~antique~~ pierced-work Victorian balustrade.

MNB 3/12/71

T - ~~299~~
276

208 E. Chestnut Street, St. Michaels



2-story porch

frame - clapboard

2 1/2 sqh - low shutters

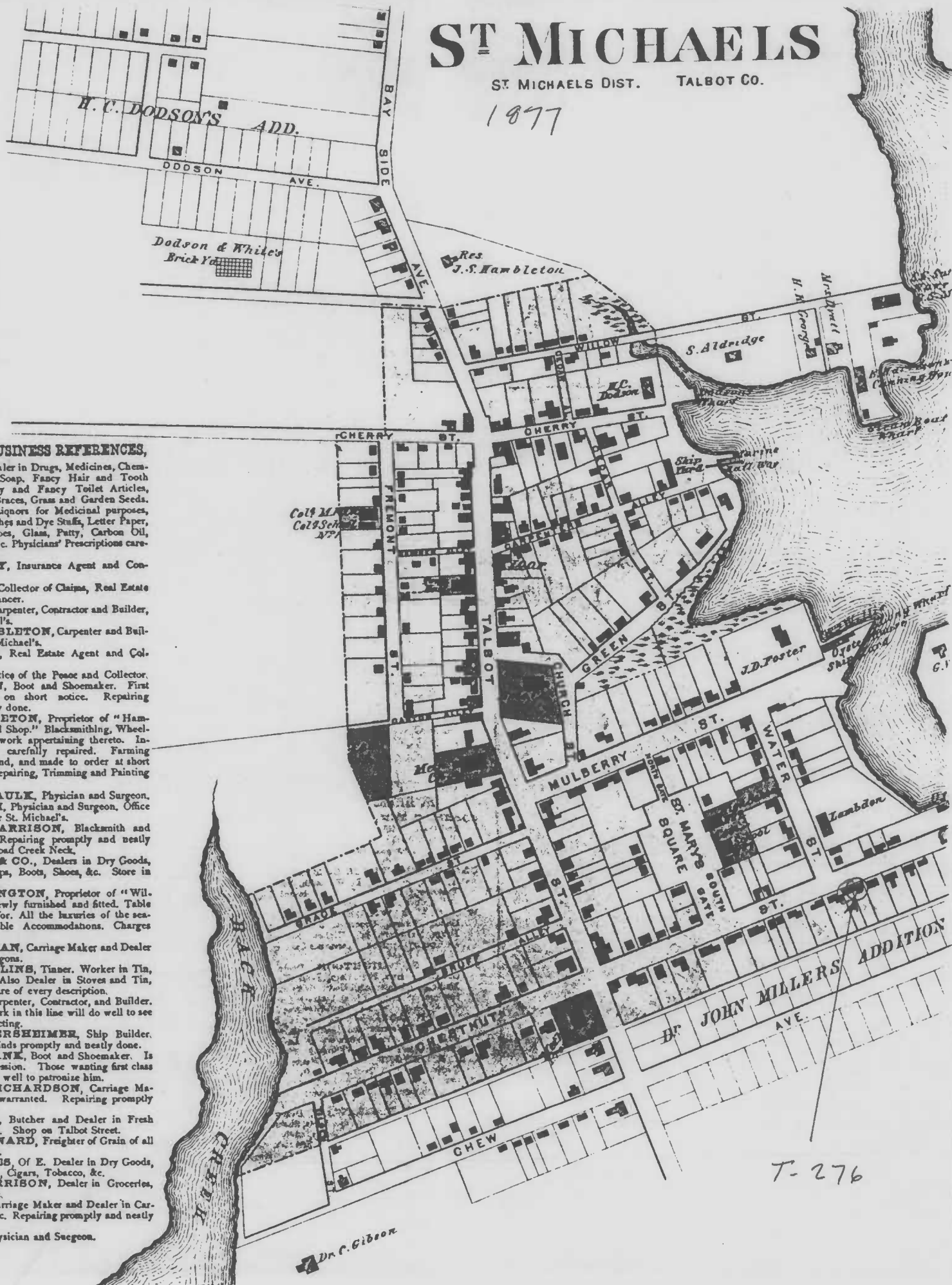
enclosed area on 1 side of porch -

2/11

ST MICHAELS

ST MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

1877



ST. MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES.

DODSON, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth Brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, Sashes, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds, Fine Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Envelopes, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Nails, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.

HADDAWAY, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.

W. DEAN, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.

S. DYOTT, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

ED H. HAMBLETON, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

S. BROWN, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Taxes.

SPALDING, Justice of the Peace and Collector.

SMITHMAN, Boot and Shoemaker. First class work done on short notice. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

S. HAMBLETON, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheelwrighting, and all work appertaining thereto. Instructive Machinery carefully repaired. Farming Implements on hand, and made to order at short notice. Carriage Repairing, Trimming and Painting Specially.

WILLIAM CAULK, Physician and Surgeon, Office and Residence near St. Michael's.

JAMES SETH, Physician and Surgeon, Office and Residence near St. Michael's.

LIAM S. HARRISON, Blacksmith and Saddle Maker. Repairing promptly and neatly done. Shop in Broad Creek Neck.

NEAVITT & CO., Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in Broad Creek Neck.

N. T. HARRINGTON, Proprietor of "Williams House," Newly furnished and fitted. Table carefully catered for. All the luxuries of the season. Ample Stable Accommodations. Charges moderate.

NIEL J. KILMAN, Carriage Maker and Dealer in all kinds of Wagons.

GEORGE W. COLLINS, Tinner. Worker in Tin, Sheet Iron, &c. Also Dealer in Stoves and Tin, and Sheet Iron ware of every description.

BLADES, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.

SEPH HERGENSHEIMER, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.

EVER FAIRBANK, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skillful in his profession. Those wanting first class work done will do well to patronize him.

KRISON & RICHARDSON, Carriage Makers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

J. HOLLAND, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.

PT. C. R. LEONARD, Freightier of Grain of all kinds to any point.

OMAS BLADES, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.

SEMI HARRISON, Dealer in Groceries, Confectionery, &c.

S. KILMAN, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

A. DODSON, Physician and Surgeon.

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RACHEL SMITH HOUSE (208 East Chestnut)
St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD
Quadrangle, 1942



T-276

RACHEL SMITH HOUSE (208 East Chestnut)

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

Northwest elevation

3/88, Paul Touart, Photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



11 x 1.78

50% 276

T-27u